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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/659,999 09/12/00 UMESHITA

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EXAMINER

LEON, E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 03/15/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/659,999

Applicant(s)

UMESHITA ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Urani (U.S. Patent 4,391,485). With regard to Claims 1 and 7, Urani discloses a fuse connection box (10) comprising a fuse (16) and a housing (12), said housing (12) being divided into a first side housing (14) in which a first side terminal (38) of an end of a first side wire (18) is assembled, and a second side housing (14) in which a second side terminal (38) of an end of a second side wire (18) is assembled, said first side housing (14) and second side housing (14) having portions (22,24,26,32,34,36) for engagement with each other, and said first side housing (14) and second side housing (14) being engaged to form a single housing (12) in which said fuse (16) can be attached. The method limitations are deemed inherent. See Figs. 1-4.

With regard to Claim 2, Urani discloses the first side housing (14) and said second side housing (14) are of identical shapes having first engagement portions (22,24,26) at one end in the direction of arrangement of fuses (16) and having second

engagement portions (32,34,36) of shapes engaging with the first engagement portions (22,24,26) at the other end. See Figs. 1-4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urani (U.S. Patent 4,391,485) in view Call (U.S. Patent 4,758,184). With regard to Claim 3-6, Urani discloses the claimed invention except a protective cover having a protective frame.

Call discloses a fuse connection box (10) comprising a protective cover (20) having a protective frame (23) attached to a first side housing (42) and second side housing (40) so as to cover a fuse (52) in a state where the first side housing (42) and the second side housing (42) are connected and the fuse (52) attached. See Figs. 1-5.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the connection box of Urani by including a protective cover having a frame as taught in Call to make the box resistant to vibration and rough use.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wang (U.S. Patent No. 6,190,207), Konno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,146,206), Liang (U.S. Patent No. 6,162,097), Gronowicz, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,109,973), Nelson, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,906,514), Jozwiak et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,668,698), Harris et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,700,165), Lin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,618,209), Ballarini (U.S. Patent No. 4,466,683), and Hsueh (U.S. Patent No. 4,941,851) disclose fuse boxes having two part housings and covers.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

EAL
March 8, 2001

P. Bradley